

THE Lowell Plan

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July 14, 2006

Alicia Matthews
Director, Cable Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Director Matthews:

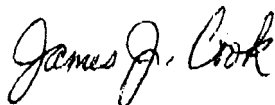
I am writing on behalf of the Lowell Plan in support of Verizon's petition to the Department of Telecommunications (DTE) that would simply establish a shorter and more predictable timeline for the competitive cable franchise process. Our organization has many different types of businesses that are members and we are a strong believer in competition.

Some of our members are small business owners. The investment that Verizon is making in Massachusetts will have a significant impact on small business owners. To date, the telecommunications pipeline available to many companies has been too large and expensive or too small. Verizon's new video service, as well as its voice and internet services will be offered over the most advance fiber-optic network in the country. For the first time small businesses will be able to have an opportunity to purchase new technology at a reasonable price.

As a result of this investment and fiber optic technology we believe more jobs could be created, existing businesses will grow and Massachusetts would be a leader in technology.

Please record us in favor of CTV-06-1

Sincerely,



James J. Cook
President/Executive Director

Janice Tartaka, Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation
Chairwoman Judith Judson
Commissioner James Connelly
Commissioner W. Robert Keating
Commissioner Brian Paul Golden